

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident



Camera mast winch failure

Issued to: **Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

Ref: NRA21-03

Date of issue: 19/02/2021

Location: Rigton CCTV level crossing

Contact: [Cliff Moody](#), Route Health & Safety Manager (North & East)



Overview

On 15th January 2021, a CCTV camera platform fell down a mast, narrowly avoiding injury to a signalling technician at Rigton CCTV level crossing.

The initial findings are that a component failure within the winch mechanism failed, resulting in the camera platform rapidly descending the mast. It struck the signalling technician's helmet with a glancing blow.

Although no injuries were sustained, this had the potential to be far more serious had the technician not reacted quickly.

The CCTV platform winch has an emergency brake mechanism intended to prevent this type of incident. However it is believed ice and snow led to the failure. A full review of the equipment is underway.

Immediate action required

- Never lower CCTV cameras without the presence of plant technicians.
- If a single camera should fail, the second camera shall be used and a fault raised with the relevant plant team.
- If both cameras fail, escalate the fault level. Plant staff must be present before either camera is lowered.
- Maintenance staff operating the winch to lower the camera shall ensure they are in a safe position and there are no other people in the work area below the camera platform.
- These are interim measures until a full review of this type of winch gear is concluded.